

**Mark C. Curran Jr. Sheriff**

# MEDIA RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 South Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** June 1, 2017  
**Contact:** Sgt. Christopher Covelli  
**Office:** (847) 377-4180  
**Mobile:** (847) 313-9350  
**Fax:** (847) 984-5738  
**E-Mail:** [ccovelli@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:ccovelli@lakecountyil.gov)

## **Sheriff Mark Curran, Lake County Chiefs of Police Launch Countywide ‘#DropItAndDrive’ Campaign**

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association and local police departments in a countywide ‘#DropItAndDrive’ traffic safety campaign during the ‘100 deadliest days’ of teen driving. The Lake County Division of Transportation along with AAA will also be partnering with law enforcement during the campaign.

Countywide law enforcement will be keeping a watchful eye for distracted drivers. Distracted driving crashes are preventable but occurring far too often. The Lake County Department of Transportation has been installing ‘#DropItAndDrive’ signs throughout Lake County and will be displaying this message on signboards as well.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more than 1,600 people were killed in crashes involving inexperienced teen drivers during this deadly period, which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. According to AAA, the three main contributing factors in teen fatal crashes are **distraction (distraction from passengers and/or electronic devices), failure to wear a seatbelt, and speeding.**

Chief Eric Guenther, President of the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association said, “We see the consequences of distracting driving on the news and on our streets. Distracted driving has become the number 1 killer of teenagers between 16-19 years of age. Our call to action is to take to the streets and focus on distracted drivers for their safety as well as the community's, for the next 100 days.”

Sheriff Mark Curran said, “Summer is here, which means kids are out of school, college students are back home, and traffic on the roadways is increasing. When driving, we want everyone to be able to get to their destinations safely. I can't urge everyone enough to put down the electronics while operating a vehicle. Please ensure you have a conversation with your family and friends to remind them of the risks of driving distracted. Remember, when operating a vehicle, wear your seatbelt and ***Drop It and Drive!***”

**End of Release**